



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5254

LCO No. 1218

01218_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING PRIMARIES FOR MUNICIPAL OR STATE OFFICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-436 of the 2012 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

4 (a) Voting tabulators shall be used at each primary, provided, (1) if,
5 because of the number of offices and positions to be voted upon at a
6 primary, there is an insufficient number of vertical columns on any
7 ballot to be used in a municipality, the vote in such municipality at
8 such primary for such offices or positions as the Secretary of the State
9 determines shall be taken by paper ballots, and (2) if, because of the
10 number of candidates for any office or position to be voted upon at a
11 primary, there is an insufficient number of horizontal rows with
12 respect to such office or position on any ballot to be used in the
13 municipality, the vote in such municipality at such primary for such
14 office or position shall be taken by paper ballots. More than one voting
15 tabulator may be used in any voting district if the registrar of voters so

16 prescribes. [The registrar shall furnish a number of voting booths
17 sufficient to provide a voting booth for each five hundred or fraction of
18 five hundred electors eligible to vote at such primary in the
19 municipality or voting district, as the case may be, and other necessary
20 equipment.] In each polling place in which a party has authorized
21 unaffiliated electors, pursuant to section 9-431, to vote for some but not
22 all offices to be contested at the primary, a separate voting tabulator
23 [shall] may be used for such unaffiliated electors and the registrar
24 [shall] of voters may separately furnish one voting booth for [each five
25 hundred or fraction of five hundred enrolled party members and one
26 voting booth for each five hundred or fraction of five hundred]
27 unaffiliated electors authorized to vote at such primary in such district.
28 [In determining such number of electors, enrolled party members or
29 unaffiliated electors, the registrar shall not count the names on the
30 enrollment or registry lists of seventy-five per cent of such electors,
31 unaffiliated electors or enrolled party members who reside in
32 institutions, as defined in section 9-159q. The registrar may provide
33 more than the minimum number of voting booths required by this
34 section.]

35 [(b) Each tabulator shall be so arranged that the elector may vote for
36 as many persons for nomination or election to each office or position as
37 there are persons to be nominated or elected, as the case may be, and
38 no more, and so that the elector may vote for individual candidates;
39 provided the vote for justices of the peace shall be by slate, as provided
40 in section 9-443.]

41 [(c)] (b) The registrar [shall appoint from among the enrolled party
42 members in the municipality or political subdivision holding the
43 primary, as the case may be,] of voters may appoint any elector in the
44 state to serve in each polling place, the primary polling place officials,
45 who shall consist of one moderator, at least one, but not more than two
46 official checkers, [not more than two challengers if he deems it
47 necessary,] and at least one, [and] but not more than two ballot clerks
48 and at least one, but not more than two voting tabulator tenders for

49 each tabulator in use at such primary and [, in towns with two or more
50 voting districts] at least one, [and] but not more than two assistant
51 registrars. [, provided (1) in the case of a political subdivision holding a
52 primary, if no enrolled party member who resides in the political
53 subdivision and who is a certified moderator consents to serve as a
54 moderator, the registrar may appoint any enrolled party member who
55 resides in the municipality and is a certified moderator to be
56 moderator, (2) in the case of either a municipality or a political
57 subdivision holding a primary, if no enrolled party member can be
58 found or no such person consents to serve as a moderator, the registrar
59 may appoint any elector who resides in the municipality and is a
60 certified moderator to be moderator, (3) in the case of a political
61 subdivision holding a primary, if an insufficient number of enrolled
62 party members who reside in the political subdivision consent to serve
63 as checkers, challengers, voting tabulator tenders or assistant
64 registrars, the registrar may appoint any enrolled party member who
65 resides in the municipality to be a checker, challenger, voting tabulator
66 tender or assistant registrar, (4) in the case of either a municipality or a
67 political subdivision holding a primary, if a sufficient number of
68 enrolled party members cannot be found or do not consent to serve in
69 a position described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the registrar
70 may appoint any elector who resides in the municipality to any such
71 position, and (5) in the case of either a municipality or a political
72 subdivision holding more than one primary on the same day for
73 different political parties, one certified moderator may serve as
74 moderator for both primaries, if the registrars of voters so agree.] If
75 unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to vote for
76 some but not all of the offices to be contested at the primary, the
77 registrar of voters shall appoint two additional checkers to check the
78 list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote on the separate
79 tabulators. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to
80 vote in the primary of either of two parties in the same polling place,
81 whether for some or for all offices to be contested at the primary, each
82 such registrar of voters shall appoint [two additional] at least one, but

83 not more than two official checkers to check the list of unaffiliated
84 electors who are authorized to vote in either such primary.

85 [(d)] (c) The registrar of voters shall designate one of the moderators
86 so appointed by the registrar of voters to be head moderator or shall
87 appoint as head moderator an elector who is not also moderator of a
88 polling place and who shall be deemed a primary official. The registrar
89 of voters may also appoint a deputy head moderator to assist the head
90 moderator in the performance of [his] the head moderator's duties. A
91 deputy head moderator shall also be deemed to be a primary official.
92 Each [registrar's] registrars of voter's appointments of primary polling
93 place officials, except moderators of polling places, and of designees to
94 conduct supervised voting of absentee ballots pursuant to sections 9-
95 159q and 9-159r shall be divided equally, as nearly as may be, between
96 [designees of] the party-endorsed candidates and [designees] of one or
97 more of the contestants. [, provided, if a party-endorsed candidate is a
98 member of a party other than the one holding the primary, such
99 primary officials shall be enrolled party members of the party holding
100 the primary. Names of designees and alternate designees] Suggested
101 names of qualified poll workers for such positions shall be submitted
102 in writing [by party-endorsed candidates and contestants] to the
103 registrar of voters not later than ten days before the primary, except
104 that names [of designees and alternate designees] for the position of
105 certified moderator shall be so submitted not later than twenty-one
106 days before the primary. [and, if such lists are not so presented, all] All
107 such appointments shall be made by the registrar of voters but in the
108 above-mentioned proportion. The registrar of voters shall notify all
109 such candidates and contestants of their right to submit a list of
110 [designees] qualified poll workers under this section. Notwithstanding
111 any other provision of this section, the registrar of voters shall appoint
112 as moderators only persons who are certified to serve as moderators or
113 alternate moderators pursuant to section 9-229, unless there is an
114 insufficient number of such persons, [who are enrolled members of the
115 registrar's party in the municipality or political subdivision holding the
116 primary,] in which case the registrar of voters may appoint a new

117 moderator in accordance with section 9-229. [, but only to the extent of
 118 such insufficiency.] Primary central counting moderators and absentee
 119 ballot counters shall also be deemed primary officials. No primary
 120 official shall perform services for any candidate at the primary on
 121 primary day.

122 [(e)] (d) If paper ballots are required for the vote on any office or
 123 position in a municipality, the clerk of the municipality, in consultation
 124 with the [registrars] registrar of voters, shall print a paper ballot for
 125 use in such primary for nomination to such office or election to such
 126 position. The Secretary of the State shall prescribe the form of such
 127 paper ballot. The Secretary of the State may prescribe general rules for
 128 the use of paper ballots in any primary, including the duties of officials
 129 at the polls with regard to the same, the marking of the same and the
 130 counting of the same. The procedure to be followed when paper
 131 ballots are so used shall conform, as nearly as may be, to the procedure
 132 applicable to voting tabulators provided in this chapter and to the law
 133 governing the use of paper ballots in regular elections and such rules
 134 shall have the force and effect of law. Chapter 54 shall not apply to
 135 rules made pursuant to this section.

136 [(f)] (e) The provisions of section 9-258 concerning additional lines
 137 of electors at a polling place, and of section 9-258a concerning two
 138 shifts of officials at a polling place, shall apply to a primary. Except as
 139 otherwise provided in this chapter, the provisions of the general
 140 statutes relating to the use of voting tabulators at regular elections
 141 shall apply as nearly as may be to the use of voting tabulators at
 142 primaries.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	9-436

Statement of Purpose:

To permit registrars of voters greater flexibility in determining how to equip and staff polling places for primaries.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]